

II. Applicant Traverse The Election Requirement

Further, Applicant submits that the election of species requirement is not well founded, and that the various embodiments are so closely related as to not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicant nor the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office should be put through the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filings and prosecution. In addition, Applicant submits that the public-at-large should not be required to obtain and study several patents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Lastly, the making of an election of species is not mandatory in all instances where it is possible to do so. Rather, the Examiner may use his discretion and choose not to make an election of species where circumstances warrant. Therefore, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the election requirement set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

III. Conclusion

Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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